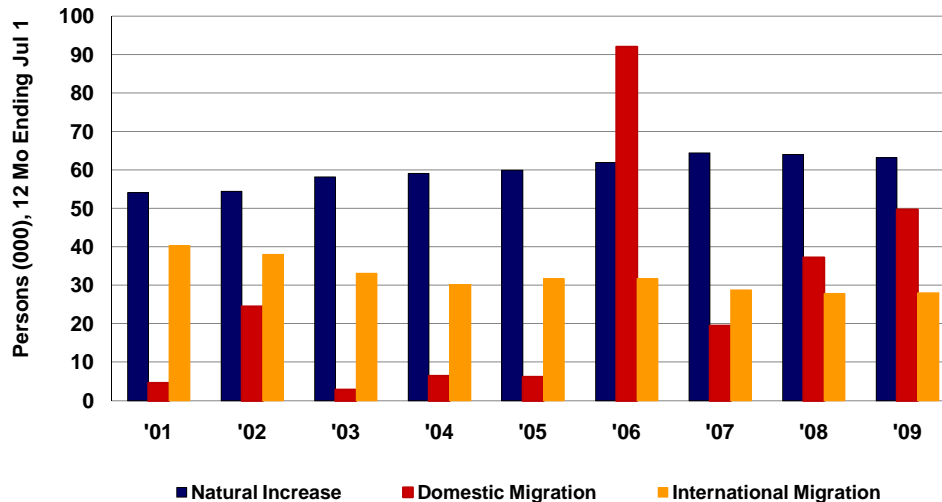


# Components of Population Change

Houston is among the nation's fastest-growing and most diverse metropolitan areas.

## Demographic Components of Population Change

Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Mar 2010

### Data

- Between the '90 and the '00 censuses, the population of the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) grew 25.2 percent, according to the Census Bureau. The nation's population increased 13.2 percent over the same period.
- Net migration accounts for barely less than 50 percent of Houston's population growth since '00. Given Houston's prominence in international business, it is perhaps not surprising that net *international* immigration accounts for an overwhelming 55 percent of net migration (some 300,000 people) from the 2000 census to mid-'09. The surge in domestic migration between '05 and '06 reflects the influx of evacuees from southern Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in late '05. Subsequent years have been characterized by a gradual diminution of international migration and sharp rises in domestic migration as Houston's economy continued to grow long after the nation entered the Great Recession.
- Houston, which prizes its racial and ethnic diversity as a source of strength in a global economy, is becoming still more diverse. The '00 census found that no racial or ethnic group now constitutes a majority of the metro area population. By '30, under reasonable scenarios, Hispanics could become a majority. Asians — nearly 5 percent of the population in '00 — will climb to 10 percent within the next two decades.
- The foregoing data include only *demographic* components of population change. The Census Bureau's estimates also include a *statistical* component called the *residual*, which is a quantity by which estimates for individual counties are adjusted to sum to an independent estimate of the nation's population. For the Houston MSA, the residual — which is *not* included in the figures discussed above — averaged more 11,400 per year during '01-'05 and was negligible in later years.